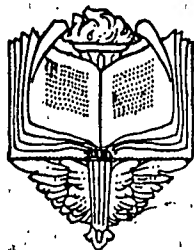


# H A N D B O O K

CAMPAIGN  
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PROVINCIAL CONSERVATIVE.  
ASSOCIATION :: REGINA

## THE LEADER'S ATTITUDE.

The Regina Leader said during the period of the Autonomy debate:

"There is practically no room for two opinions with respect to the financial terms, which are framed with an entire absence of the niggardly spirit which left Manitoba in an unfair and unequal financial position. So far as concerns the financial equipment to enable the northwest people to maintain local government, speaking not for the next ten, twenty, or thirty years but for all future time we say unhesitatingly that the arrangement made is unquestionably more stable and satisfactory than any arrangement that would have left us with control of the public lands.

Scores of quotations could be cited showing the same sentiment but two will suffice.

At Hanley on July 31, 1908 Premier Scott said:

"I am perfectly satisfied that Saskatchewan and Alberta are the best off provinces in the Dominion of Canada as a result of these terms." Again at Outlook on October 6, 1910 he said:

"Am I going too far when I suggest a doubt as to the sanity of any Saskatchewan man who complains against our land terms?"

## A CHANGE OF HEART.

In 1911 when the policy of control of the Public Domain by the province was becoming more popular every month came the first change of opinion among members of the Liberal Government.

A long resolution was moved by Mr. Turgeon of which the following are the essential points:

The Liberal Government still held that the public lands did not belong by right to the province but they asked for a portion of the Public Domain. The Liberals still adhered to the principle of a subsidy in lieu of the lands revenue and did not ask for compensation for lands that had already been alienated since 1905.

The Conservatives opposed this policy and held to the position taken up since 1901.

Since then the Liberals have abandoned this policy and have asked in the Legislature for the control of the Public Domain on practically the same terms as that advocated persistently and without change by the Conservatives since they were first put forward in 1901 by Premier Haultain.

To quote Hon. George Langley in a recent speech at Grand Coulee:

"We were wrong in 1905 but we are right now."

## A LIBERAL RUSE.

Yet looking at the negotiations that have been going on and the correspondence that has passed between the Provincial Government and the authorities at Ottawa, it would appear that the main

object of pressing forward their claim at this time is to embarrass the Dominion Government at Ottawa.

According to the correspondence brought down during the last session of the Legislature, the demand for the transfer of all the Public Domain was first made during the session of the provincial Legislature in 1912, AFTER THE LAURIER GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN SUPERSEDED AT OTTAWA. It was re-affirmed during the session of 1913. In December of that year following a conference of the premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta with Sir Robert Borden the three premiers held a session and formulated a proposal to the Prime Minister that "The financial terms already arranged between the Provinces and the Dominion as compensation for lands should stand as compensation for lands already alienated for the general benefit of Canada and that all other lands and natural resources be transferred to the provinces." That is to say they asked that the Public Domain should be transferred to the provinces but that the compensations should also be paid. They wanted to eat their cake and have it too. No mention was made with regard to the existing conditions with respect to homesteading or any stipulations with regard to assuring conditions that would not militate against a continued flow of desirable immigration.

In reply Sir Robert Borden clearly stated that the extraordinary proposal with regard to the financial arrangement was one which he and his colleagues refused to consider and pointed out that no mention was made of the other matters although the premiers had agreed to formulate some proposals along these lines at their joint conference.

### NEGOTIATIONS HALTED

This letter was dated March 5 and apparently NOTHING FURTHER WAS DONE BY THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT UNTIL LATE IN THE FALL OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK NO FURTHER ACTION FOR OVER EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

At that time the premiers reported that they had held another conference and they made the astounding proposal that as the carrying out of such a policy lies with the Dominion Government that some scheme as a basis of negotiation should be formulated by Sir Robert Borden.

### THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister replied that as he had previously pointed out that the proposals of the provincial premiers must involve a reasonable and definite outline of what they were prepared to do in relation to the three fundamental aspects of the subject which had been agreed upon at the 1913 conference and to which he had pre-

viously referred. He further pointed out that until the three provinces had agreed among themselves upon some basis of negotiations they could not reasonably approach the Dominion Government.

That letter was received and acknowledged on March 27 and since then the Liberals have done nothing to expedite negotiations.

### NOTHING IS DONE

The Liberals continue to pass resolutions in the Legislature but apparently no effort has been made by the three Liberal premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to FORMULATE A BASIS OF A PROPOSAL ON THE LINES OUTLINED BY THE PREMIER. UNTIL THAT IS DONE THE OTTAWA GOVERNMENT CANNOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION.

The delay in getting our Public Domain restored lies with the Provincial Government.

The revenue derived by the Dominion Government from the year 1905 until the close of the 1915-1916 fiscal year through the adoption of the Laurier policy in which Premier Scott and the Liberal party concurred has deprived the province of Saskatchewan of \$18,696,073 made up as follows:

Minerals .....	\$ 238,155.23
Timber .....	1,010,522.22
Lands .....	18,951,845.36
From C. N. R. Indemnity lands .....	579,997.10

Grand total .....\$20,780,519.91

These figures do not include revenue from licenses issued by the Fishery Department.

TO-DAY THE ALLOWANCE IN LIEU OF LANDS DOES NOT PAY ONE-HALF OF THE INTEREST ON THE PUBLIC DEBT.

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## FARM LOANS

That the Farm Loans Commission be furnished as needed with the necessary funds to exercise the powers given to it in addition to the making of loans by buying and selling land to settlers for agricultural purposes as it is now practised under the parent New Zealand system.

More urgent than farm loans is the need of providing better facilities for granting short date loans and we pledge ourselves to find a solution of this problem unless satisfactory legislation is passed promptly by the Dominion Government for rural credits.

We must go back to the session of the Legislature immediately preceding the last provincial election in order to fully appreciate the position with regard to Rural Credits. In that session D. J. Wylie the (Conservative) member for Maple Creek brought up the question of Cheaper Money for the Farmers. After emphasising the urgent necessity for action Mr. Wylie suggested that the Provincial Government should approach the Dominion authorities at Ottawa with a view to finding some solution of the problem.

Hon. George Langley speaking during the course of the debate ridiculed the idea of seeking advice or assistance from the Dominion authorities declaring that "It is not for the provincial Government to go as mendicants to Ottawa." It must not be forgotten that a Conservative Government had been returned at Ottawa a few months before Mr. Langley made this statement.

### ANOTHER ROYAL COMMISSION.

Mr. Wylie's resolution was voted down by the Government supporters and eventually the Government proposed that a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate the whole matter. During the last election Mr. Haultain urged that a system of Government loans be immediately established and he was bitterly assailed by the Liberals for not waiting until the Royal Commission had made its findings.

Following the provincial election a Royal Commission was appointed consisting of the following members: J. H. Haslam, C. J. Owens, Professor E. H. Oliver, and C. A. Dunning. Messrs. Haslam and Dunning were also appointed members of another Royal Commission to inquire into the marketing of Saskatchewan Grain in Europe which continued its investigations about the same time.

### FINDINGS BROUGHT DOWN

The cost of the Royal Commission on Agricultural Credit was \$18,644.42 and their findings were duly submitted to the Legislature. Legislation based on these findings was brought down in the Legislature and was vigorously attacked by the Opposition. The principle on which this legislation was based following the Commission's findings was what is generally known as the Landschaften system which is prevalent in Germany.

This system provides for a co-operative system as opposed to the system of direct Government loans which is generally known as the New Zealand system as it was in that portion of the Empire that it was first extensively tried. The New Zealand system has since been adopted in British Columbia, with certain modifications. Mr. Willoughby attacked the Landschaften system in the Legislature pointing out that while it might be admirably suited to a country like Germany where land passed from generation to generation in one family and where land tenure was accompanied with few

changes from year to year, yet it was wholly unsuitable to the totally different conditions of a pioneer country like the Canadian Northwest. Mr. Willoughby came out clearly and emphatically for the New Zealand principle.

Like all other legislation introduced by the Government the bill was finally passed by the subservient Liberal supporters but a clause was inserted that it should not become effective until such time as the Ministers thought expedient.

### EXCUSES ARE OFFERED.

All sorts of excuses were offered from year to year by the Liberal leaders as to why the bill had not been placed on the statute books. First it was the Balkan war which had unsettled the money markets of Europe, then it was other abnormal conditions which made it inadvisable and finally the Great War in Europe was said to have made the securing of the necessary funds an impossibility.

Yet if the financing of the measure was impossible at the beginning of the war it is difficult to see how it is easier now when the Motherland is praying that every available dollar be used to hasten the end of the struggle.

During the session of 1916 when there was no provincial election imminent the matter was brought up. Hon. W. R. Motherwell went fully into the legislation which had been passed. Cheap money has been so much talked of lately said Mr. Motherwell, according to the report of the proceedings appearing in the newspapers, that it was expected that the mere passage of a law would automatically provide cheaper money. The only way money can be cheaper is by the improvement of the securities of the borrower. After the passing of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Mortgage Association Act the time was not opportune for bringing in the measure. The best friends of the Act would not like to see it effective at the present time. The Government will enforce the Act as soon as conditions are favorable. By this plan the Co-operative group gets behind the individual and the Government gets behind the group.

### CALDER'S VIEWS

Hon. J. A. Calder said "At the present time the Federal Government is dealing with this question. It is a large one and exceedingly complicated. There is a Commission at work now on it and I know that one or two members of the Federal Government personally—and especially Hon. Arthur Meighen—are giving the question a great deal of study. I think we should express our general approval of the fact that they are considering the problem and that an effort will be made to arrive at some solution at as early a date as possible.

"For many years to come it is not going to be a question of cheap money. It is going to be a question of getting money. It seems to me that for some years to come the great difficulty we will

all experience in Canada will be to get the money we require for the development of the country.

Yet less than eight months later we find the Martin Government discussing Rural Credits and several weeks before this Premier the measure would soon be on the statute books.

The reason for the sudden change of heart was that the Liberal Government was bound to appeal to the electors and Rural Credits was a good vote-getter.

But another and an even more drastic change of opinion came over the Liberal Cabinet. They scrapped the old bill, disregarded the findings of their \$14,000 Commission and swung over to the view consistently upheld by Mr. Willoughby and the Opposition that any Co-operative system of Rural Credits would be unworkable in Saskatchewan and they adopted the New Zealand plan of straight Government loans.

### OPPOSITION SCORES

This was a signal triumph for the Opposition which had never receded from the attitude they had taken up when the bill was first brought down. The Government did not make the slightest attempt to justify their sudden right-about-face. The Government knew when they introduced their new bill that the Dominion Government was about to bring down a Rural Credits bill in the near future and they were afraid that the Conservative Government at Ottawa would get the credit.

The Rural Credits bill of 1917 was introduced solely as a political trick, as a sop to the farmers on the eve of an election. If some measure had been introduced in 1913 the farmers would have hailed it with gratitude. But the ruse is too patent to deceive the farmers of this country. Its introduction at the last hour of a dying Legislature deceives no one as to its real purpose. The need for the system is not so urgent as it was through the lean years of 1912, 1913 and 1914, and the farmers have been robbed of thousands of dollars through the political trickery and the dilatoriness of the Government.

The farmers of this province know that the more pressing need of today is the granting of facilities for providing short date loans. No provision is made for this necessary accommodation in the legislation brought down last session. Yet there isn't a farmer in Saskatchewan who does not know the urgency of this need.

The Conservatives have pledged themselves that if returned to power they will find a solution of this problem unless provision is made for such short term loans in the legislation which Mr. Calder admitted that he knew would be brought down by the Dominion Government in the near future.

# LIQUOR TRAFFIC

The complete prohibition of the liquor traffic of the province by making the consumption of intoxicating liquor as a beverage an offence against the law, thereby preventing its importation into the province from outside by means of the provisions of the Doherty Act.

The attitude of the Conservatives on the Liquor question, the history of the negotiations between the Government and the Liquor interests and the story of how the present legislation found its way on to the statute books is fully set forth in a pamphlet entitled "The Liquor Traffic and the Saskatchewan Government" which has already been distributed throughout the province by the Conservative party.

The arguments which the Liberals are putting forward in opposing Mr. Willoughby's clearly defined attitude on this question are:

1. That the Opposition plan is un-British and would lead to an indiscriminate searching for liquor in private houses.
2. That such a measure was never asked for by the Temperance organizations.
3. That it is an attempt to shift the burden of responsibility of finding a solution to the Prohibition problem on the province when it should rest upon the Dominion.
4. That it would not be effective if it was placed upon the statute books.

## RIGHT OF SEARCH

1. The provincial police today have powers of search in private houses and have always had such powers in dealing with suspected offences against the Liquor Act. If the police think liquor is being sold contrary to law they have power to break into private residences for evidence. This talk of the act being un-British is all rubbish. It is a subterfuge in order to cloud the real issue. As a matter of fact if the Doherty Act was brought into operation, as the province has power to bring it, it would be illegal for any express company or common carrier to ship or bring liquor into the province and not a carrying company would take the risk. It would put an end to the Commission House business so far as Saskatchewan is concerned.

## THE TEMPERANCE ATTITUDE

2. The temperance party and the organized temperance societies of Canada want Prohibition and isolated quotations from obscure papers in Eastern Canada or the views of Ministers who pay more attention to politics than to the betterment of social conditions will



not prove otherwise. Not a single quotation has been brought forward expressing the views of any Temperance official as being opposed to Prohibition. Not one has said that he has given up trying for Prohibition because Saskatchewan has gone far enough. The passing of legislation along the lines proposed by Mr. Willoughby would at least stop the importation of some liquor. That cannot be controverted. It would put the Commission House out of business. Is there a temperance worker who will go on record as saying that he does not want the Commission Houses put out of business or one that would not favor the passing of legislation that would prevent the importation of hundreds, or scores or even one single bottle of liquor?

### OUR LEGAL RIGHTS

3. The provinces have the constitutional right of modelling their own legislation on the Liquor question. The Dominion Government has declared that it will not at this time, pass legislation in favor of Dominion-wide Prohibition until the provinces have taken advantage of the legislation that is already on the statute books. Half a loaf is better than no bread.

### THE DOHERTY ACT.

4. The Doherty act would be more easy to enforce than a Dominion-wide Prohibition law. It would be as effective as the police of any province wished to make it. If it was found to be unconstitutional in opposition to the best legal opinion in Canada the Temperance party would have stronger claims on the Dominion Government for the passage of a Dominion-wide act.

Remember Walter Scott said less than two years ago:

"If we had opposed Prohibition we would have set the cause of Temperance back fifteen or twenty years."

Attorney General Turgeon said a few weeks ago:

"The people of Saskatchewan have not asked for such a drastic measure."

British Columbia has voted against Prohibition. Quebec has not yet asked for it. Saskatchewan has declared in favor of a bone-dry province.

### WHY CANNOT SASKATCHEWAN HAVE IT?

The reason is because the Saskatchewan Liberals are shirking their responsibilities and trying to throw the blame on the Dominion Government. They know that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and a large number of his supporters are opposed to Prohibition.

The first paragraph on page 12 under the heading "The Real Reason," should have appeared on the preceding page at the close of the article on Liquor Traffic. The article on schools begins with the words "Reiterating the Policy."

# SCHOOLS

## THE REAL REASON.

BY STAVING OFF THE PASSING OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION AND BY RAISING THE CRY OF A DOMINION-WIDE LAW THEY ARE ABLE TO TELL THE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING VOTERS THAT PROHIBITION WILL NEVER BE ENFORCED BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT AT OTTAWA AND SIR WILFRID LAURIER AND HIS FOLLOWERS DO NOT FAVOR IT AS WITNESSED BY THE ATTEMPT OF A LIBERAL SENATE TO NULLIFY THE BILL.

Reiterating the policy adopted unanimously at the convention of the Saskatchewan Conservative Association at Regina on January 18, 1917, that prompt changes be made in the law respecting schools and education and in the regulations made thereunder respecting text-books and the qualifications of teachers as will provide in every school in Saskatchewan, whether public or separate, private or parochial adequate and efficient instruction in reading, writing and speaking the English language and the securing of an administration of the law as to assure by frequent and qualified inspection that this end will be absolutely attained.

The present School Law contains the following section dealing with the language question.

177. All schools shall be taught in the English language but it shall be permissible for the Board of any district to cause a primary course to be taught in the French language.

2. The Board of any district may, subject to the regulations of the department employ one or more competent persons to give instruction in any language other than English in the school to all pupils whose parents or guardians have signified a willingness that they should receive the same, but such course of instruction shall not supersede or in any way interfere with the instruction by the teacher in charge of the school as required by the regulations of the department and this Act.

3. The Board shall have power to raise the money necessary to pay the salaries of such instructors and all costs, charges, and expenses of such course of instruction shall be collected by a special rate to be imposed upon the parents or guardians of the pupils who take advantage of the same.

The language of the act is very clear. There is also a regulation of the department which provides that where instruction is given in any language other than English it shall be given during the last hour of the school day.

## THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY

The policy of the Conservatives as set forth in the above resolution provides:

(a) Adequate and efficient instruction in English in every school in Saskatchewan whether public, separate, private or parochial.

(b) Supervision, and control of private and parochial schools as regards qualifications of teachers, text-books and teaching.

(c) Strict enforcement of the law.

The evils which the Conservatives complain against as existing today are evils of administration rather than evils of legislation.

They complain that:

A large number of teachers of alien enemy birth and sympathies without proper professional qualifications are employed in the schools of the non-English speaking districts. This does not give the children a fair chance.

That English is not the sole language of instruction during the school hours in a number of schools in non-English speaking settlements,

That hundreds of children in Saskatchewan are unable to read, write, or speak English, thus handicapping them for life,

That the law with regard to the collection of a special assessment paid by the parents or guardians of pupils taking instruction in a language other than English is not being enforced with the result that there is every inducement on the part of trustees to engage teachers with an inadequate command of the English language.

That many private and parochial schools have a low standard of education.

## UNQUALIFIED TEACHERS

1. The number of teachers holding provisional certificates, that is to say those whose qualifications do not entitle them to the standard of even a Third Class certificate is over one thousand. This number is greater than the number teaching in any other province in Canada on permit and is greater than the number who have ever taught in one year in this province without the proper qualifications. Yet these unqualified teachers command almost the same salary as the certificated teacher. Last year there were 750 teachers "on permit". A large number of these provisional teachers are employed in the schools of non-English speaking settlements and, they are not satisfactory. To quote the words of Inspector Magee, "There were thirty-two provisional teachers in this inspectorate and ten of these were employed in non-English speaking districts and with one exception THESE TEN SPOKE AS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE THE PREVALENT LANGUAGE OF THE DISTRICT. AS A RULE PROVISIONAL TEACHERS DO A LOW GRADE OF WORK. THEY BELONG TO THE PAST."

Inspector Merrill says "The Canora Inspectorate contains thirty-five school districts of which the nationality of the pupils is wholly Ruthenian. Of these thirty of the schools are taught by Ruthenian teachers, mostly zealous but NOT AS YET POSSESSED OF A COMMANDING KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE."

Inspector Anderson says: "THE CHILDREN IN TOO MANY OF THE NON-ENGLISH DISTRICTS ARE NOT GETTING A FAIR CHANCE."

### IMPORTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

A large number of these provisional teachers who are employed in the non-English speaking schools are imported into this province every year from Manitoba, handpicked in the province by the leaders of the disloyal Nationalist movement, sent here with the approval and under a secret understanding with the sympathizers of the National Ukrainian leaders in Saskatchewan to sow the seeds of their dangerous propaganda in our schools and, to develop the idea of a separate nation within a nation through the fostering of their own language.

### WHAT LIBERALS HAVE DONE.

It is just two years ago since Walter Scott the then Minister of Education made his famous speech in the Legislature in which he acknowledged that there was good ground for much criticism against the Public School system and urging the formation of associations throughout the province for 'Better Schools.' Since then branches have been organized. They have carried through their work and have sent their recommendations to the department; yet not a single recommendation has been adopted nor has the attitude of the department been such as to encourage further effort. It was a convenient way of shelving the responsibility for mal-administration. The solution of the problem which the Liberal Government has adopted is the appropriation of \$10,000 for an educational survey. This is less than the amount spent in flags, bunting and refreshments for the day the Governor General visited Regina and fifty per cent less than the amount spent on the piece of mason work above the entrance to the Parliament buildings.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance is worst in Saskatchewan than in any other province in Canada. The average attendance for all Canada is 66.53, for Alberta 62.8, for Prince Edward Island 63.54, for Nova Scotia 65.3, for Ontario 66.69, for New Brunswick 67.18, for Manitoba 67.6, for Quebec 75.67 and for British Columbia 81.46.

The average attendance for Saskatchewan is only 58.70.

The United States is able to secure an average attendance over the whole republic of 74.2 while Great Britain reaches 88.90 per cent.

Estimating the boys and girls of this province at 175,000 it is evident that less than one-third of them are being taught on any particular day in our schools. Are we proud of such a record?

### **COST OF EDUCATION.**

Let us look for a moment at the cost of education in this province as compared with that on other provinces. The cost per pupil in attendance in Saskatchewan is \$122.00. In Alberta it is \$133.00, in Manitoba it is \$104.00, in British Columbia it is \$79, and in Ontario it is \$42.00.

The cost of education per head of the population in Saskatchewan is \$13.21. In Montana across the boundary it is \$9.50.

### **STANDARD OF SCHOLARSHIP**

Let us look for a moment at the standard of scholarship of our children. According to the latest return brought down there were in 1915 69,302 children attending the rural schools. Of this number 24,115 or 34 per cent of the rural schools were in the first three grades. Taking all the public schools in the province, city, town or village and rural 32 per cent were enrolled in grade one and sixty per cent in the lower three grades.

When we remember that many boys and girls pass out of Grade VIII in the cities at the ages of thirteen and fourteen, some conception of the average standard of Education can be gained.

It is a condition of affairs of which we have good cause to feel ashamed.

### **FOREIGN TEACHING**

The Minister of Education admits that at least twenty-nine Ruthenian schools take advantage of the teaching of a foreign language in the last hour of the school day. The law provides that where such teaching is given there shall be a special assessment to pay the cost of such instruction. "All costs, charges and expenses of such course of instruction shall be collected by a special rate to be imposed upon the parents or guardians of the pupils who take advantage of the same." This is a most important provision and an attempt to alter it during the session of 1915 was met with an outburst of protest.

Yet Premier Martin would have great difficulty in naming a single school of the twenty-nine he admits are getting this foreign instruction where that special assessment has been levied, or even in naming a single school where such an assessment has ever been levied.

This is a breach of the law which the Conservatives are pledged to see enforced in the future.

## **SOME INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW**

There are scores of school districts where the boys and girls do not understand English. Some of these are Krydor where a Mr. Pitchko taught last summer; Haralowkt No. 2396; Zbaraz No. 2403; Zaporozo No. 3188 and Zamock. There are schools where German is taught in the Langenburg district of the Saltcoats constituency. There are scores of schools where the regulations with regard to language teaching are violated. Among these are Janow No. 2842; two schools in the vicinity of the Kleczkowski Post Office and the Rus school district No. 2548. Many other examples could be cited.

The law with regard to the language question is being violated every day with the full knowledge of the Ruthenian School District inspectors.

The platform for the Conservative party is a rigid enforcement of the law with regard to the teaching of non-English languages with regard to the special assessment and with regard to the use of foreign text-books and the employment of qualified teachers.

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## **EDUCATION**

While unwilling to make education a purely party matter, we deplore the inefficiency of the present school system and hold the government responsible therefor.

We suggest immediate amendment in legislation and administration along the following, among other, lines, having in view more particularly our rural schools.

**Pensions for teachers.**

Minimum salaries for teachers, graded according to qualifications and experience.

**The erection of school residences for teachers.**

**The simplification of the curriculum, laying more stress on the essentials of reading, writing and arithmetic, and English grammar and composition.**

**The compulsory teaching of civics and practical patriotism and of the elementary rules of sanitation, hygiene and personal cleanliness.**

**Extending to rural schools facilities for secondary education, and to urban schools facilities for technical training.**

**Public boarding schools and the making of the school a community centre.**

**A large increase in the number of inspectors and the utilizing of these and of others to a greater degree as school superintendents and advisers.**

The consolidation of school districts, especially in the more densely settled portions of the province and among the non-English speaking people.

Abolishing the office of school district inspector.

A change in the system of administration under which the school district is the unit of government.

The providing of a greater latitude in the fixing of times for vacations to suit local conditions.

Speaking to the Convention of Teachers in Regina recently Dr. Sandiford, one of the most prominent educators of Canada said that the "Measure, of the esteem in which the education of a country is held, the degree of importance in which the up-bringing of our boys and girls is regarded can be measured by the salary paid to the school teachers.

According to the latest returns brought down by the department the average salaries paid for teachers in Saskatchewan are from \$779. to \$882 for men and \$742 to \$797 for women. Taking the whole year around (and it is well known that the teachers have little opportunity or energy for employment temporarily in other tasks) the average monthly salary is from \$65 to \$70. A carpenter would laugh at such wages. A competent plumber would scorn such a pittance. Is the building of our house and the flushing of our drains of less importance than the bringing up of our boys and girls of our province?

### A LOW WAGE.

Even the Austrian laborers who are now hiring out to the farmers demand \$50 a month and all found. In harvest time they will ask and obtain an even higher wage. This is what we think of the responsibilities of the teaching profession and this is what we will continue to pay until the Government steps in and passes a minimum wage law, graded according to qualifications and experience. Pensions for the superannuated and the payment of salaries during sickness, as a right and not as a charitable gift from the trustees, must also be undertaken.

### HOUSING OF TEACHERS.

One of the complaints which teachers today have against the present system is that the accommodation for living is not satisfactory in many of the rural settlements. Too often one of the trustees thinks that it is a perquisite of his office that he should have the teacher as a boarder while in other cases there are no suitable quarters within the school house and the teacher is forced to take what she can get which often means the sharing of a room with the children of a family, no privacy and little or no recreation.

One of the proposals of the Conservatives is that the Trustees should be forced to erect suitable accommodation on the school ground for the teacher where he or she, if they prefer, could live in



bachelor quarters or where the married teacher would have an opportunity of remaining in the service because suitable quarters would be provided for him and his family.

### **CROWDED CURRICULUM**

As far as the curriculum is concerned it is generally admitted that today it is over-crowded with a large number of useless subjects of which the children can only get a smattering. The whole curriculum should be revised and more attention paid to the essentials of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic which today are crowded out and to English grammar and composition. The curriculum should however include a short training in civics and practical patriotism and in the elementary rules of hygiene, sanitation and personal cleanliness.

### **PUBLIC BOARDING SCHOOL.**

Another new proposal put forward by the Conservatives is the inauguration of Public Boarding Schools especially during the winter months when owing to the depth of snow or the inclemency of the extremely cold weather it is impossible for young children to attend school. It is thought that if boarding schools are established under rigid supervision that parents will be glad of the opportunity of sending their children to such schools for two and three months at a time in order that they may escape the extreme rigors of the climate.

The Conservatives favor a great increase in the number of inspectors. They hold that the duties of these officers should be not only to inspect the schools and to act as a kind of policemen for the department but they should have smaller districts to oversee and that their advice, and their experience might well be utilized by the teachers. That is that they should be able to counsel and advise the young teachers, to encourage them and to take a more active part in the daily round of each school.

### **CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS.**

Another plank in the Conservative platform is the consolidation of school districts especially in the sparsely settled districts. The advantage of such a move is that it will not make it necessary to have a number of school trustees for every school house in the rural districts and in this way there will be a wider choice in the selection of men to fill this important office and in the second it is hoped that a community centre can be formed in the centre of the consolidated district where the teachers can live in the school residences and so find recreation and companionship among themselves instead of as at present each teacher being isolated from his or her fellow-teachers.

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SASKATCHEWAN

## SCHOOL DISTRICT INSPECTORS

With regard to the district inspectors which must not be confused with the regular school inspectors, five of these men are shown on the Public Accounts of 1915-1916. They are Hugo Von Meyer, Amedee Cleroux, J. Kuhn, Joseph Megas and Julius Androchowicz. According to a statement made in the Legislature during the session of 1916 their duties are "to investigate and report upon school district boundaries and to advise the school district administration in foreign settlements."

### SOME FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

These men are not required to have either literary or professional qualifications. A knowledge of some foreign language, a lack of appreciation of British institutions, an ability to inspire the foreign people among whom they work with a national spirit that is not British and an impression that this end can best be obtained by keeping in power the present provincial government from whom they draw large salaries, is a fair index of their qualifications and of the work they do.

During the year 1915-16 these five men drew in salaries and allowances the sum of \$10,378. Mr. Androchowicz drew \$5,455 and Joseph Megas \$4,793 in two years. Nor does this complete the roll of the gentlemen of foreign birth and in many cases it is to be feared, of alien sympathies, who are employed in this department. Among those who drew pay during the last few years as engaged in training teachers for foreign settlement schools are such names as the following: Platsko, Statia, Dr. Duneet, Mrs. Oberhoffner, Vasilash, Berozuk, Mrs. Lowontiuk, Mrs. Pisula, Dutwowski and Konavulow.

### ROMANIUK—ALIEN ENEMY

There is a gentleman of the name of Romaniuk who was also engaged in training these teachers. In 1914-1915 he drew \$794 for his services and in the following year he drew \$1,000 as a teacher and \$1,358 as expenses as an inspector of school districts. And during a part of the time that this gentleman's services were paid for by the people of this province, he was in the Detention Camp at Brandon held as an alien enemy of the Dominion.

That these school district inspectors should be allowed to draw from \$2,500 to \$2,800 every year for salaries and expenses, the majority of them of alien sympathies, having little or no professional training, while school teachers holding first class certificates are getting from \$750 to \$800 for their labors with no subsistence allowance and no travelling expenses is an open scandal.

The office of school district inspector should be immediately abolished. These men are employed by the Government for the influence they are able to wield among the foreign speaking people,

they are cogs in a political machine and their influence is on the whole opposed to the ideals of British citizenship. They are of alien birth and their sympathies are at least suspect. That they should continue to hold office and draw big salaries at a time when Canada as an integral part of the British Empire is at war is mockery of our boasted patriotism and a menace to our Nation. To their immediate abolition the Conservatives are pledged.

### TRUSTEE SYSTEM.

With regard to the trustee system the Conservatives hold that it was adopted in Saskatchewan because it was the system in vogue in Ontario and that events have proved that it is not suitable for the sparsely settled districts of this province. Whether the municipality shall be the unit of administration or whether some other unit shall be chosen is a matter which must be worked out after careful study.

### VACATION

With regard to the fixing of vacation times it is generally conceded that September and October are busier months in the rural districts than are July and August and it is thought that there should be greater latitude allowed so that local conditions in each district might be met.

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## HAIL INSURANCE

The institution of a hail insurance system which shall be voluntary for all residents and positive, the deficit in any abnormal year being borrowed from the general revenues of the province. The total losses to be paid on September 1 of each year, and partial losses on November 1.

The policy of the Conservatives in the matter of Hail Insurance was full set forth in the draft bill which Mr. Willoughby sought to introduce into the Legislature but which was thrown out on a technicality. An effort by the Opposition Leader to explain his bill before the Grain Growers convention met with the same fate. The Liberal coteries which controls the Grain Growers' organization feared that the bill might prove popular with the farmers and that they might make matters unpleasant for the Government. It would never do for the Grain Growers' parliament to oppose a bill introduced by the Government in opposition to the policy which a few of the Cabinet have forced on the statute book.

## MR. WILLOUGHBY'S STAND.

This bill provides for Government insurance on the voluntary plan. That is, any resident farmer, by giving notice to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality in which he resides, may withdraw from the privileges of this insurance. Non-residents have not the privilege of withdrawal. The tax to be levied is the same as under the Commission namely four cents an acre and the amount of indemnity for total loss is \$5 an acre. In case the amount of the losses in any year exceeds the amount available for distribution the Government is empowered to borrow sufficient sums from the general revenues of the Province to make up the deficit. This sum borrowed becomes a first charge on the future revenues of the Act.

The plan provides that the secretary-treasurer of the municipality shall take a sworn affidavit from the owner as to the amount he has under cultivation before June 15 in each year and the taxes are to be collected by the same official in the same way as the municipal tax is collected, the municipal councils providing the machinery of collection.

## VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.

Under this plan there is no voting as to whether a district or a municipality should come under its operation but the scheme is open to every grain farmer in the province whether in a municipality or in an unorganized district. The indemnity for partial losses is to be paid on November 1 of each year and for total losses on September 1.

An entirely new principle is included in this draft bill, which, while it is not a necessary part of the act as a whole, yet will be given a fair trial to prove its workableness. In the case of partial losses, notice of which must be given to the municipality within ten days of the occurrence of the storm the amount of indemnity to be paid shall be the difference between the average crop which this land has produced during the last five years and the amount threshed according to the returns of the thresherman. In case of new cultivation the average is to be set by a competent authority. While this provision does not affect the general principles of the bill yet it is considered by those who have had long experience with hail insurance work as a practical solution of the problem of adjustment of partial losses on which there has been considerable dissatisfaction and dispute in the past. The advantages claimed for the scheme propounded by Mr. Willoughby are,

1. That it provides positive insurance under Government guarantee.
2. That the scheme is voluntary and there is no oppression of the minority or compulsion.

3. That the cost of operation will be considerably reduced through utilizing the machinery of the municipalities for administration.

4. That losses will be paid at the time when the money is most needed.

5. That the partial losses will be based on a practical and equitable plan.

In the matter of Hail Insurance the Conservatives have stood consistently for the policy which they have followed since their declarations in the early history of the party—the Government control of public utilities. As far back as the session of 1908-1909 the Conservative members in the Legislature strongly opposed the action of the Government in abolishing the system of Government Hail Insurance which although not without defects of administration had given general satisfaction. In the following session Col. A. B. Gillis introduced the following resolution.

"That in the opinion of this House the Government should introduce legislation establishing a system of Government Hail Insurance under the administration of an independent Commission,

#### CALDER PLEADS FOR HAIL COMPANIES.

Hon. J. A. Calder pleaded that the private companies were doing satisfactory work and he was not in favor of a change. He admitted however, that there was some ground for complaint in the rates charged by the private companies. In 1909 private companies issued 7,639 policies covering over 1,000,000 acres. He moved an amendment that instead of Government Hail Insurance a Commission should be appointed to gather information with a view to a possible change.

#### GOVERNMENT SCHEME FAILED

As a result of the information gathered the Hail Insurance Commission was created. After lauding this commission year after year and claiming it as one of the pet children of the Government the Liberal party rejected their offspring last year when it was found that there was a deficit of over \$2,000,000 and declared that the Government took no responsibility whatever for the failure of the scheme.

In 1915 a Government official reported in an official Government report that "it will be seen that the results attained to date have been highly satisfactory." The Government cannot escape the responsibilities of their legislation so easily. The expenses of operation amounting to about \$250 for each municipality or about \$100 for each claim paid were due to the cumbersome machinery which the act provided. The fact that many of those insured did not know that the insurance was not positive was due to the fact that they were kept in the dark by the officials of the association.

The Government was willing enough to take the credit in the good years and must bear its share of the failure.

From the time when Government Hail Insurance was abandoned two years after the Liberals came into power the Grain Growers of the province consistently and persistently urged that a system of Government should be inaugurated again. The following are some of the resolution passed at succeeding meetings of the Grain Growers conventions from 1908 until the Hail Insurance Commission was established.

### **HAIL INSURANCE—GRAIN GROWERS' RESOLUTION SASKATOON, FEBRUARY 13th, 1908.**

"Resolved that the Provincial Government be requested to introduce legislation to levy a tax of one cent an acre on all lands and an equivalent tax on other taxable property to be used to cover losses from hail storms."

**WEYBURN, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1908.**

**Leader Report, February 18th, 1908**

Mr. Langley reports,

"Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in submitting to you my third annual report, and the eighth annual report since the organization of this association."

The report, among other things, says, we are sorry that our Government has decided to discontinue the hail insurance they have been carrying on for some years. As they have been carrying on this insurance under a monopoly clause, it suddenly leaves our people without any protection from this scourge. It occurred to me that in the meantime, a neutral company might be formed; and the Government might be induced to do all clerical work from their offices. This would at least give us a measure of protection.

### **MEETING GRAIN GROWERS, PRINCE ALBERT, 1910**

The resolution finally passed, reads,—“Whereas the hail insurance companies now operating in Saskatchewan, are not doing a business acceptable to the farmers, be it resolved that a provincial hail insurance system be established. The revenue for said system to be raised by a tax not exceeding two cents per acre; all land to be subject to said assessment provided that any resident ratepayer be allowed to register one section or less out of the assessment and participation of its benefit.”

### **MEETING AT REGINA, 1911**

**Copy Hail Resolution.**

“Whereas the companies operating in Saskatchewan in hail insurance are not doing a satisfactory business, and whereas the Provincial Government agreed to all satisfactory business conducted,

be it resolved that we call the attention of the Provincial Government to the existing conditions with a view of establishing a system of hail insurance by assessment, as adopted at our last convention, to ensure the election of men whose views harmonize with the body of the convention, and who can, therefore be relied upon to carry out the will of the convention, and that a provincial hail insurance system be established. The revenue for the said system to be raised by a tax not exceeding two cents per acre, all land to be subject to said assessment providing that any resident ratepayer be allowed to register out one section or less, from the assessment and participation in the benefits."

Yet in spite of these recommendations by the Grain Growers, a system of co-operative insurance that did not insure and which eventually netted a loss to the farmers of over \$2,000,000 was forced on the farmers and the provision that they should be allowed to register out one section or less was disregarded.

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## GOOD ROADS

One of the principal issues before the province at this time and one in which every section and class of the community is vitally interested is the question of Good Roads. The policies of the two parties are clearly opposed and while it may reasonably be conceded that every man and woman in Saskatchewan wants to see an improved system of highways yet the method by which this end can be obtained shows a strong variance of opinion between Liberals and Conservatives.

### HIGHWAYS' BILL

Good Roads was also an issue of the last provincial campaign for in the session preceding the election the Highways Bill had been enacted in the Legislature. Previous to the introduction of this bill there had been a good deal of criticism levelled at the Government by the members of the Opposition and in introducing the measure Premier Scott said that he had come to the conclusion that the present system of road and bridge work was insufficient and unsatisfactory. The Conservatives claimed further that the money that was appropriated for the building of roads was not used to the best advantage but that it was used in building up and maintaining a vast political machine. Subsequent events have proved the truth of these statements.

When the bill creating the Board of Highway Commissioners became law the Conservatives refrained from any strong criticism of the new plan and if the promises of the Government which were made at that time had been kept in two important particulars the

Conservatives would not have such serious fault to find with the operations and methods of the Commission and there would have been at least far less corruption in the administration of the Board.

### WHAT OLD ACT PROVIDED.

According to the act of 1912 the Highways Commission consisted of three members appointed by the Government, assisted by two advisory members nominated by the rural and the urban municipal associations. The personnel of this board after it was fairly established was Professor Grieg, of the University of Saskatchewan; D. J. Sykes of Swift Current, with F. J. Robinson who had long been associated prominently with the Liberal party. To these were added T. M. Bee, representing the urban municipalities and George Thompson, the rural municipalities. As a matter of fact the Chairman proved to be the whole board responsible only to Mr. Calder, the other members being merely figure-heads. Mr. Sykes found his position so intolerable that he soon resigned.

### MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES.

Another principle to which the Government pledged itself in the creation of the board was that the Government would spend dollar for dollar with the rural municipalities for road and bridge work as well as spending sums out of general revenue. The Government never made any serious attempt to carry out this principle although it was one of the strong features of the bill and after about a year the plan was entirely abandoned.

Therefore after the Board of Highway Commissioners had been in operation for less than two years it was controlled and operated by the chairman who also had absolute control of all expenditures. This brought constant criticism from the Conservatives but their protests were unheeded. The two basic principles in the administration of the Roads department for which the Conservatives have always stood are that the municipalities shall have a say in the initiation of all road work in their own borders and shall have supervision of the expenditures. The other principle is that the administration shall be kept free from politics.

### PERMEATED WITH POLITICS

The Conservatives claim and not without reason that the road foremen and road gangs have been to a considerable extent the political agents for the Government and that for this reason there has been considerable waste and extravagance in administration.

Questions directed to the responsible minister in the Legislature asking for information as to the building of roads have been refused for various causes. Had a return of all the roadwork done been brought down when it was asked for in 1915 by the Opposition some of the frauds of Job Brown and other dishonest officials would have been uncovered at least a year before they eventually were.



The Conservatives continue to advocate that the administration shall be taken out of politics by appointing a Commission answerable only to the Legislature. They stand by the principle of the municipalities initiating their own road work and controlling the expenditures.

Mr. Willoughby's resolution reads as follows:

That it is expedient that a Commission be appointed to be known as the Good Roads Commission, whose members shall be removable only by vote of the Legislative Assembly, and which Commission shall have authority to spend up to \$2,500,000 in any year.

To the end of building up in the Province a system of modern improved highways, rural municipalities be authorized to initiate the construction of trunk roads with necessary bridges thereon. The letting of contracts, control, supervision and management to be with the municipalities affected, unless otherwise agreed between them and the commission.

Municipalities building such roads in accordance with standards of quality and regulations set by the Commission to receive from the Commission 75 per cent of the cost of the work.

The maintenance of such trunk roads to be under the control of the Commission, and the cost thereof to be borne in same proportions as the building.

Municipalities building cross-roads with necessary bridges connecting with such trunk roads to be entitled to receive from the Commission 25 per cent of the cost of construction, provided the cross-roads are built in accordance with standards of quality and regulations set by the Commission.

The Commission to have authority to pay an agreed percentage of the cost of large or permanent bridges in cities, towns and villages.

All roads and bridges in unorganized districts to be under the control of the Commission.

All construction work, to which the Commission contributes a portion of the cost, to be done by contract after tender where the estimated expenditure exceeds \$50,000.

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## RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

The building of railways first became an issue in this province in 1908 when the Liberals during the election campaign of that year pledged themselves to construct branch lines all over the province in accordance with a railway map which they had prepared and which showed lines radiating from all points in every conceivable direction. At the time these maps were drawn the Government had made no provision to construct a single mile of railway. This placed them at the mercy of the railway corporations when the time came to implement some of these pledges. The Government first approached the

C. P. R. who refused to build without a cash bounty and the Great Northern which were in the same position. Finally the Canadian Northern agreed to undertake a programme of railway construction if they were guaranteed \$13,000 (afterwards raised to \$15,000) a mile and they were allowed to retain control of the regulating of freight rates.

### **PUBLIC RIGHTS DISREGARDED**

When the Railway legislation was introduced in the session of 1908-1909 the leader of the Conservative party moved the following resolution in the House:

"That a clause be inserted in the said agreement that the Government control the regulation of freight rates over all lines of railway constructed, also running rights for other railways where the best interests of the public would be served by each and the power to take over all lines of railway by the Government at their actual cost if at any future date it was thought advisable in the public interest to do so."

This was voted down on a strict party division and today while over \$46,000,000 of the Public Credit of the Province has been pledged for railway construction and terminals not a single concession has been received by the people. Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia demanded and received substantial concessions.

Of the 6,000 miles of railroad built in Saskatchewan only 1,411 have been built under guarantee and of the 2,842 miles guaranteed no less than 1,248 have never been graded and 323 miles have not even been surveyed. Of the whole programme of 270 miles agreed to in 1913 not a single mile has ever been constructed. Of the 760 miles of the 1912 programme only 68 miles have been constructed.

The Conservatives claim that the Liberals have made reckless promises to secure votes at elections without any intention of carrying out this programme. The Conservatives stand today as they did in 1908-1909 in favor of the Government taking over all lines and property at actual cost if at any time it is thought advisable in the public interest to do so.

On three occasions at different sessions the Conservatives have demanded that the railways be forced to continue their work but the Government has no power or no will to attempt to compel them.

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## **WOMAN SUFFRAGE**

Now that after long and unnecessary delays the Liberal Government has granted the women of the province their just rights of exercising the franchise the Liberals are taking unwarranted credit for their action in this matter whereas the credit for its passage is due to the Conservatives the records of the Legislature and the recorded speeches of the members will show.

## BRADSHAW IS PIONEER

It was in December, 1912, that Col. Bradshaw moved the following resolution in the House:

"That in view of the marked progresses being made on the continent of America by the movement in favor of Equal Suffrage this House hereby signifies its approval of the extension of the franchise to women."

In speaking to the resolution the member for Prince Albert said:

"I feel proud that I am the first member of the Provincial Legislature to bring to the attention of the House a question which has so many unanswerable arguments in its favor, and I feel satisfied that if woman suffrage is enacted, it will materially improve conditions as they exist today in Saskatchewan."

The Regina Province in an account of the proceedings spoke of Col. Bradshaw as follows:

"The valiant champion of the suffrage cause, the member who introduced the resolution is most deserving of recognition. Mr. Bradshaw excelled himself and proved most eloquent."

Mr. Motherwell said:

"Saskatchewan may be said today to enjoy a system of what is generally known as 'manhood suffrage,' and in view of present conditions in Saskatchewan it is unlikely that the women of the province will ask for the vote for some time to come. It will be in Saskatchewan a last resort."

The Minister however, argued that the resolution was premature. "Mr. Bradshaw has plucked the fruit before it was ripe, even before it was in blossom", he said.

Mr. Paulson who followed the Minister of Agriculture thought the introduction of the resolution was premature and that the people were not ready for such legislation..

## REV. LEITCH'S ATTITUDE.

Rev. M. L. Leitch, the present Liberal member and Liberal candidate for Morse said:

"Perhaps I am hard to convert to the cause of woman suffrage. If all thought as I do perhaps women would not even have a say in municipal government. And this is not because I am a woman-hater . . . . The place for women is as an ornament and help to man and to carry out the domestic side of life. If women had the vote, Houses would be divided against themselves, and we all know what happens to a house that is divided against itself. Female suffrage would be a step backward. It would tend to draw women away from their own sphere."

The debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. Herbie Pierce of Wadena, seconded by Mr. Cawthorpe of Biggar.

## SIGNIFICANT ACTION.

The names of those who moved the adjournment of the debate are extremely significant. The liquor interests, who had a strangle hold on several members of the Legislature feared the introduction of the Woman's vote, for with women voting the bars would immediately be closed and they had sufficient influence to stave off the time, when the women should receive their just rights.

Net result of the first round in the House, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Tate and Mr. Wylie favored the extension of the franchise to women.

Mr. Motherwell and Mr. Paulson said that it was premature to ask for women's franchise rights, Mr. Motherwell adding that in Saskatchewan it would be a last resort. The debate was adjourned and so the matter disposed of by Mr. Pierce of Wadena and Mr. Cawthorpe of Biggar. Their subsequent history indicates what their motives were.

What happened next year?

On November 18, 1913 Mr. Bradshaw asked the Government the following question.

"Has the Government or any member of the Government been requested to introduce legislation at this session of Parliament granting the franchise to women."

Hon. Walter Scott answered as follows:

"A petition addressed to the First Minister has been received which prays that at this session of the House an act may be passed for a general extension of the franchise to the women of Saskatchewan on equal terms with men.

This did not satisfy Mr. Bradshaw and five days later he again asked:

"Is it the intention of the Government to grant the prayer of the petitioners as set forth in the petition addressed to the First Minister on the question of the extension of the franchise to women. If so will any action be taken in the matter at the present session?"

Hon. Walter Scott replied:

"The question has not yet been formally before the Government for decision."

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## PROVINCIAL FINANCES

In less than nine years the provincial government has piled up a debt of over \$25,000,000, exclusive of any bank overdraft which they may have had at the time of the last return. Today the bond houses are advertising for a further loan. In addition to this the government has pledged the credit of the province for something like \$42,000,000 to the railway companies, exclusive of the additional millions for terminals, which take so long in building.

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In less than nine years this money has been spent. Since 1912 the year of the last election, the public debt has been increased by nearly \$18,000,000. During more than half this period the empire to which we are proud to belong has been fighting for its life and we have been urged by those in authority to strain every effort by personal sacrifice and, by rigid economy, to help win that war. And during the time these calls have been sent forth the government have been spending more than three millions, more than they have received in revenue.

On February 28 of this year the annual interest charge of the public debt was \$1,297,800, and the generous terms of which we heard so much at the time of autonomy, are not today nearly sufficient to pay this.

That some of the expenditures have been necessary works, is readily admitted. Some of the money that has been charged to capital account has gone into fine buildings and good roads. But in the expending of the \$25,000,000 there has been culpable waste and extravagance.

### BATTLEFORD ASYLUM.

The Battleford asylum has cost the province more than \$1,750,000. Experts have testified before a royal commission that over \$400,000 of this amount is a direct steal. For example they swore that 472,000 face brick were used in the building and that 565,000 were charged for. The walls and partitions of the main building which are nearly a half mile around, were found when measured up to be ten inches short in height. But the full height was paid for. Carloads of lumber were left out of the roof. Maple floors were omitted from the ground floor, but charged for. Over 75,000 copper ties were called for and paid for but not used. Cheap lumber was used in place of B. C. fir, and 12,419 yards of plaster were omitted from the roof, but were paid for. An estimate was given for \$40,000 for the sewage disposal and water system and the final cost, which the people had to pay was \$194,000. Paysheets were grossly padded and day after day different men were found to be working in two or three places on the same day. Day after day different men were shown to be working 18, 19 and 24 and as high as 27 hours in one day. Even a machine used for cutting pipe was put on the payroll and drew regular wages.

Cheques totalling \$3,061 were paid by one of the contractors direct to Ernest Brown, Deputy Minister of Public Works. The contracting company did not deny that these sums were paid, but claimed that they were in the nature of loans. Even if this statement is correct it discloses a queer state of affairs when the deputy minister borrows large sums from the contractor whose work he is overseeing.

There was gross extravagance and fraud in the building of the Battleford Asylum that would put to the blush Mr. Kelly of Manitoba for impudence and rank theft.

Within two years, due to the building of this graft-ridden building, the cost of maintaining our insane has risen from \$114,000 to \$289,000. This does not seem to be good financing.

### SO-CALLED RELIEF WORK.

Take one more example of the government's financial methods. A sum of \$1,111,000 was appropriated for the relief of distress in South West Saskatchewan, due to the drought in that country. How much of this money went to the needy settlers and how much to the political heelers and grafters, the bosses, the straw bosses, the paymasters, the superintendents, the cook and the officials that were imported into that country? A conservative estimate of the actual relief would be that \$250,000 was spent in actual relief. The balance went to the politicians.

Take the example of Foreman Oliver Kerr, in 19, 7 W 3. The foreman got \$36. The straw boss got \$21, the foreman got for his teams \$18 and the actual amount spent in relief of the \$90 was \$8.96. Take another case Sec. 33-13-21 W.B., the wages paid for actual relief were \$5 and the foreman and his assistant got \$42.50. Some of the political foremen who keep the voters in line for the government drew as much as \$3,500 and \$4,000 for the hire of their teams and their own services. They were very needy settlers indeed.

This is how the relief money went, and the tales of drunkenness and gambling that followed those political paymasters and their friends stinks to heaven. Six were dismissed for drunkenness and gambling; others, lost the money entrusted to them; thousands of dollars were paid over the bar. And every cent that was grafted by these corrupt, public servants, will be paid for by our children and our children's children. For it is a part of the public debt of the province.

### PATRIOTIC WAR TAX.

For the first two years after the war, before the assessment of the one mill on the dollar was enforced, money was borrowed, for expenditure on patriotic aids. It was meant that such revenues as were derived from these debentures should pay for any grant which might assist in the winning of the war. The first sum that was taken out of this revenue was to pay for the gift of horses which Saskatchewan gave to the empire. That is we have taxed the generosity of our children and our grandchildren. When these horses are all dead and buried we will still be paying interest on our generous gift and generations yet to come will help bear the burden. They will even help bear their share of \$12,000 which was paid to Mr. George Bell Jr., and his partner for insuring our horses. Then again out of these

patriotic revenues we paid the salaries of dependents of civil servants who volunteered for the war. According to the public accounts of 1916 we paid one gentleman \$3,500, which was the same as he was receiving before he volunteered. In the next year we paid nine other gentlemen the same salaries as they were receiving. Others received but a few dollars less. Apologists of the government have said that no single man received such an allowance, but cases where they have been paid to unmarried men are known.

Now, for the first two years these salaries were paid out of the money borrowed on the credit of the province, and, as such, are a part of the public debt, which generations to come will have to pay. Then a tax of one mill on the dollar was made on all assessable property and now the householders are paying for these salaries. The employees of the towns and cities are not paid out of this assessment, yet they are just as much the servants of the people. One man who is employed in military district No. 12, and who has no intention of enlisting for overseas service, is being paid \$1,200 a year, which is only \$100 less than he would receive at the parliament buildings, and he is getting his military pay and allowance as well.

But this is not all. In the first year of the war there is a sum of \$19,727 taken out of these revenues for the salaries of special night watchmen of public buildings, and this is a part of the public debt.



